Cloning

Embryo Cloning

Potential benefits:
- understand and prevent miscarriages
- more effective contraceptives
- prevent growth of cancer
- test for inherited diseases
- increases success rate for IVF
- potential sibling donors frozen
- twins rather than two pregnancies

Moral issues
- issues raised by PGD
  - eugenics
  - value of embryo
  - discrimination
- ‘mass production’ of:
  - soldiers
  - workers
  - ruling class

Therapeutic Cloning

Potential uses:

Organ transplants
- no rejection of transplant
- no pain or risk to ‘donor’
- no waiting lists
- organs would be brand new
- lives saved

Cure for Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and thousands of other disorders
Treatment for diabetes, paralysis and countless other conditions

Concerns:
- Where can you get stem cells from?
  - Foreign DNA (greater chances of rejection and need for drugs)
    - embryos created in infertility treatment
    - eggs mixed with donated sperm
    - germ cells or organs of aborted foetuses
  - Perfect match
    - cell nuclear transplant
    - bone marrow – limited usefulness
    - ‘mature adult tissue cells’ – speculative
    - umbilical cord
- Cell nuclear transplant seems the best way forward, but…
- An embryo is a person, however created – this is murder
- Others say it’s a pre-embryo and has a reduced status
- There are lots of technical problems that mean it doesn’t work yet
- Harvesting eggs is painful, costly and unreliable
- Is it right to use non-human eggs?